**10 Things to know about Thanksgiving**

1. **It’s the second Monday in October**. It’s on a different date every year.
2. **It’s a stat (legal or statutory) holiday**. Schools and most businesses will be closed. Some stores stay open and have holiday hours.
3. **It’s not just for church members**. Though Thanksgiving was started to give thanks to God, people with no religion also celebrate Thanksgiving.
4. **The traditional meal is roast turkey**. The turkey is usually filled with stuffing made of bread and spices. Other things that make it a traditional meal are sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.
5. **If you’re in charge of buying the turkey, you need to do it at least a week before Thanksgiving Day**. It can be very hard to find a turkey in the stores a few days before Thanksgiving. Frozen turkeys can take several days to defrost.
6. **Canadian Thanksgiving is different from U.S. Thanksgiving**. It’s earlier and it began as a celebration of the fall harvest.
7. **No one expects a card or a gift**. You may see Thanksgiving cards in the stores, but sending cards is not a custom as it is at Christmas time.
8. **Thanksgiving is important to children**. If you have children in school, they’ll hear a lot about Thanksgiving. They will make Thanksgiving art projects and hear about other families’ celebrations. They will probably be happy to help you get ready for the holiday.
9. **Canadians expect to spend Thanksgiving Day with their families**. People may visit relatives out of town. Anyone who works on the Thanksgiving must be paid extra money.
10. **The most important thing to remember is that it is a day to enjoy**. It is about being thankful for the good things in your life. And there are lots of good things about life in Canada.